

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 18, 1871, with transcript

Home, May 18th, 71. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

Go on and prosper. The enclosed will keep you going, and each letter will bring you some till you get supplies. You will first exchange shops where you can get American for Canadian bills. Give us a short note at least once a week. You must not undersell Lee and Shepard, unless to oblige a friend, you reduce the price of the books. There is a duty of 30 percent, which I have paid on the stock, in Boston. It will take about \$4.00 to pay me trade price of V. S. and return duty and carriage. Probably L. and S. sell for \$5.00. They can't for less. Annals not received. Call your instruments "poker and tongs", or "tongue-guides". You find almost the same in Colombat's book. The necessity of mechanical assistance should have been no discovery to you. Don't make yourself too cheap. Let Dr. Peel send for you before you go to New York. Take things coolly. You will find inner and outer "husks" to be taken off. Don't think the work accomplished when the latter are cracked. I shall be glad to hear more of your management of the evening class. You ran a great risk of bringing discredit on the grander experiment by a premature attempt in this direction. You have no hold on such pupils, and you can do nothing till their faith in the established reputation of the system makes them persevere. Be wise and cautious! Watchful eyes will have noticed the defections and you will 2 hear of them detractfully, unless your school success be out of question. Have you seen Dr. Cutting? Kind regards to the Wannamakers, Bulfinches, and Miss Fuller and others.

Your affectionate father, Alex, Melville Bell.